

PERFORATORS OF POSTAGE STAMPS

From Dilwyn Chambers

Dilwyn Spotted this entry for **Frank Braham** in a book by J Gavin Scott, published in 1975 by Spink & Son Ltd, called **British Countermarks on Copper and Bronze Coins**.

In the *List of Countermarks etc on European Bronze Coins* the name of Braham appears and there is a further reference to the *Notes on the Issuers of Pieces Listed in Table 2*. The following, taken from those notes, may fill in gaps in our knowledge of Braham as a perforator of stamps.

Frank Braham was the Postmaster at Tabernacle Square Post Office, E.C., and made machinery for perforating the initials of firms and others on all kinds of revenue and postage stamps as a safe-guard against theft. Such perforations also served as advertisements. Cost was 1d per sheet. Perforating of postage stamps to prevent theft was recommended by the Post Office in the Post Office Guide and is still practised to a limited extent. Braham's advertisement appears 1882-5; similar advertisements, slightly earlier, appear for Francis A Hancock of Wood Street Post Office and Steam Printing Works, Moor Lane E.C.

In the London street directories, Frank Braham appears as follows; perforated press maker, 51 Hoxton Square, N. (1882), 51 Hoxton Square and 8 Tabernacle Square, E.C. (1883-4), 51 Hoxton Square and 142 Tabernacle Street, E.C. (1885); perforating press maker and perforator (initials) of postage stamps, 51 Hoxton Square, N. and 93 Tabernacle Street (1886-90) (91 Tabernacle Street in 1891); 91 Tabernacle Street and 47 Rivington Street, E.C. (1892-4), 91 Tabernacle Street and 11 Rivington Street (1895-8), 91 Tabernacle Street and works, Rivington Street (1899-1901).